

Armipotent 1471

Chapter 1471 Not Training Ground, But Fighting Ground

"You are quite generous today, Young Miss," The manager in the red formal dress commented after Tang Shaoyang left.

Cladeos Emporium was the famed store, known universally with thousands of branches in over a hundred worlds. Elonia was the daughter of Cladeos Emporium's council member. Her father told her to come here to gain experience.

It was just formality, a show for the upper echelons of the emporium, so she could get positioned higher in the emporium later on.

Elonia's father was one of the fifteen members of the Cladeos Council. The council was the one in charge of the famed emporium. That was the reason why it could grow so big and had many branches all over the world. Each figure in the council was a figure with a big influence in many worlds.

"Am I? I am just following my father's advice, and making connections. I have a gut feeling that the guy is extraordinarily stronger than most participants. There's nothing to lose for me even if he dies or fails to reach the height I expected," Elonia smiled, but then she squinted her eyes.

"Can't you sense it, Rene? The dragon aura from him?" Elonia plucked the leftover Orien from the table and turned toward the manager while throwing the Orien into her mouth.

"I can sense his dragon aura, but what is so special about him to make you favor him? I don't think he is the only one with a dragon aura," The female in the red formal dress furrowed her brow.

She could feel the dragon aura, the uniqueness that someone had with a dragon bloodline. But Tang Shaoyang was not the only one with a dragon aura. She met two others who shopped on the second floor with a dragon aura, even others with unique auras. It did not make Tang Shaoyang special in her eyes.

"You are still young," Elonia shook her index finger, shaking her head as if she was an oldie with experience. That caused Rene to roll her eyes. In terms of experience, Rene had met a lot of people. Sure someone with a dragon aura must be strong, but there were a lot of people that were stronger than just people with a dragon bloodline.

Elonia pointed her finger above, and Rene followed. The dragon carving on the ceiling. She did not understand what her young miss tried to say at first. But she quickly caught on to what her young miss tried to say.

"Are you saying he is someone with that cursed dragon bloodline?"

"I can smell the difference within his dragon aura. It's not just any normal dragon. Some people in other worlds call it a cursed dragon, some words call it Calamity Dragon, and the people who worship dragon call it Progenitor or The Origin of Dragon," Elonia shrugged, "No one knows the truth, but we all know that dragon is strong. Strong enough to be compared to the Dragon Guardian and Dragon King on the Dragon Realm."

Rene furrowed her brow. Not that she doubted it, but in fact, she believed what her young miss said. In that regard, her young miss was more knowledgeable than her.

"Don't think too much about it, Rene. No matter how strong his bloodline is, it will be useless if he cannot use it well. As said, I am just making a connection. We don't lose anything even if he fails to reach our expectations."

Elonia waved her hand as she threw another Orien into her mouth. She squinted her eyes and muttered, "But I think Calderon also senses the same thing. That's why he gave the token. Or else, he would not hand the token easily."

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Ten items for a reserve order was quite a lot, but even with ten items. It still took Tang Shaoyang a long time to decide the ten items he wanted. That was because of how many items Cladeos had. There were more than two hundred items for mage, including the staff, the robe, and the accessory. Of course, most of them were dominated by Ancient Grade and Myth Grade items.

There were only six Legend Grade items and twenty-four Primordial Grade items in there. Even the Myth Grade item was a big upgrade for the people in the Tang Empire. The best thing they could get was a Grade A item. That was the best grade with their current research and the dwarves' current ability.

He ended up reserving three robes and seven accessories. The reason he did not prioritize the staff despite how good the staff was, was because Selena, Arina, Jasmine, and Liang Suyin did not use staff. If there was an extra, he might buy that stuff later. The priority was the accessory. The bonus was significant considering how small the item was.

After staying for almost two hours, he left the crowded store. He wanted to do a quick stroll to familiarize himself with the city. But he ended up spending more than half a billion GC on the first day. Tang Shaoyang put aside the thought of shopping today. He went out to check if the city had a training ground or not to test out his new skills. There was no training ground, but there was a place called Arena.

It was not the same as a training ground, but it was a place for them to fight. It did not really matter to Tang Shaoyang as long as he had a place to test his new skill.

When he heard about Arena, he thought it was just another name for a training ground. However, it was an actual arena dome. There were ten small dome arenas and one arena the size of a football (soccer) stadium.

There were fewer people in the Arena district compared to the other districts. Most of the people in this district gathered in the first and second arena.

Tang Shaoyang came to test his skill, so he chose the third arena that looked like an empty arena from the outside. When he entered the arena, he was surprised to find someone was fighting in the arena. Two men fought with a wooden staff.

It was an arena in the middle with seats surrounding the arena with a short wall with a barrier separating them. Around twenty people were watching the fight.

Chapter 1472 Beauty Invitation

Tang Shaoyang was disappointed that the arena had a different purpose than he thought it would be. It was not a training ground, but an arena for the participants to

fight at each other. Whether it was a sparring fight or to resolve their conflict. The interesting part was that the fighters were not allowed to use their skill in the fight.

The barrier that surrounded the arena had another purpose aside from the safety measures. It was to disable skills as well. That was right, the people who fought in the arena fought with brute force. At least, that was what the person next to him said about the arena.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh, disappointed. He came to test his new skills, but that was for naught. How is he supposed to test the new skill if the arena disabled the skill? He could not even try the new skill even if he entered the arena to fight.

"Did you come to test your new skills after the advancement?" The man in the blue robe next to him asked. He was the same man who explained to him about the arena.

"Yeah. Is there any other place that maybe I can use to test a new skill?"

The man in the blue robe shook his head, "Don't think so. I came here yesterday, and I have visited all the districts. Unfortunately, there's no such place. I have come with the same intention, but..." The man did not finish his words, letting out a sigh.

"The frustrating part is that what's a magus like me supposed to do? How am I supposed to fight without my skills? Am I supposed to brawl with someone with a higher Strength and Agility attribute than me? This is so stupid!"

"What are you talking about? Haven't you watched the mage's battle in the first arena?" A female voice interrupted them.

Tang Shaoyang and the man in the blue robe turned around. A woman wearing a bright green tunic stood with her hand crossed on her chest. She was an elf with long green hair, emerald green eyes, and a sharp gaze. Based on the outfit, she came here to watch instead of fighting.

She locked her gaze on Tang Shaoyang, observing him for a while before she decided to sit next to Tang Shaoyang.

"Yesterday, there was a mage battle. They could not use their skills, and yet they still managed to activate their spells. It was a great fight, and that was the reason why this district has more visitors than yesterday."

Her words reminded Tang Shaoyang about using skill without activating the skill. In the last months, he had been training with that and had a major success. He could use most of his skills without activating them. It was hard and easy at the same time. It was easy for the skill with a simple concept, but it was extremely hard because it required a deeper understanding and the fundamentals of the skill itself.

The easy examples were Invisible Slash, Thousand Blast, and Master of Elemental to manipulate elements at his will. It took him a few hours to succeed with those three skills. However, there were skills that he could not fully master to this point. One of them was [Blink]. The concept of space became a hindrance for him to execute the skill without activating the skill. He was still reliant on activating his skills with all his spirit's skills as well.

"I know what you mean, but how will it help me to fight the Calamity? Those basic spells could hurt my peers, but could those basic spells hurt or even kill the calamity? I came here to try my new combination skills and other stuff, but how am I supposed to do that in this stupid arena?"

The man in the blue robe rolled his eyes. He knew what she talked about, but it did not resolve his problem about wanting to try his new skills. This arena was built for the participants to fight without casualty. But he was looking for a private place where he could test his limits. Knowing how strong he was with his new skills allowed him to gauge how far he could go and also allowed him to choose the right prey to hunt. Not knowing his limit might lead him to his doom, something he tried to avoid.

In this trial, his enemy was not just the calamity, but also the other participants. He could not go all out to hunt the calamity. The other participants might come for him to steal his prey if he returned, exhausted.

"Fair point," The elf nodded, "Anyway, my name is Agnes."

"Tang Shaoyang." "Clement Salle."

"Have you formed a party yet, Tang?" She specifically asked Tang Shaoyang.

"Party?" Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow, and then he shook his head.

"What about forming a party with me, Tang? I am a ranger. You will need someone like me in your party to gather information as well as scouting." There was a tinge of pride when she mentioned her role in the party.

Clement Salle furrowed his brow, clearly displeased that he was excluded from the conversation. Not that he wanted to join the party with her, but it hurt his pride that the elf straight ignored him.

"Hmmm..." There was something he disliked about the party. Not only does it would divide the point from killing Calamity, but he must share the loot as well. Clearly, the calamity's remains are worth a lot. Having those for himself would help him to get the items he needed quickly.

'Do I really need a party?' He questioned himself if he really needed to form a part in this trial. That was the safest way to clear the trial and advance to the next stage. However, he eventually had to reveal himself to the others. That might put him at a disadvantage for the next round. It would be best if he kept his ability secret.

'But I have you guys. Do I really need a party?' Tang Shaoyang talked to his spirits. Six Archaic Spirits were enough to form a party with seven members.

Chapter 1473 His Own Party

'We have one Calamity with us, and he is piss-weak! This calamity hunting should not be that hard, no? '

Afi the Primordial Urosa replied. He was talking about Doombringer, The Calamity Behemoth.

'What's your rank, piss-weak? Rank 3 or rank 4?'

The bear warrior was teasing Doombringer, but the latter took it seriously. The Bear Vs Dog was a new thing after Zowen and Karan. Ever since Zowen was resurrected, no more noisy spirit always argued in his head. Now a new pair appeared, it was the bear warrior and the ferocious dog.

'Say it one more time, and I will obliterate you!'

'Cut it, you two! This is not the time to play around!' Avyn interrupted the two.

Doombringer and Afi stopped arguing. Avyn was like a figure leader among the Archaic Spirit aside from Baccara as the new addition.

'What's your rank, Doombringer?'

'I am not sure myself. But I would say that I am at least rank 6 or maybe rank 7 when I am alive. Remember, we are weaker in our spirit form!'

The rebel Behemoth answered Avyn honestly. Even though no one admitted it openly, the Archaic Spirits were aware that Avyn was the strongest among all of them.

'We are worried for nothing then. By ourselves, maybe we can hunt rank 4 or maybe rank 5 Calamity. I don't think you need to form a party with the others, Your Majesty. Your bloodline is quite problematic, and they might turn against you if they found out about your bloodline.'

Vandir gave his objective view as well as his genuine concern. If Tang Shaoyang formed a party with the people who viewed his bloodline as evil. They might have tried to kill him indeed.

'Agreed. And you will share the point and loot with your party members. More reasons not to form a party.'

The five Archaic Spirits had their discussion while Baccara maintained her silence. Tang Shaoyang listened to his spirits' discussion. That made him forget about Agnes and Clement Salle.

"Hey! Are you ignoring me!?" Agnes raised her voice when she noticed Tang Shaoyang was in a daze, giving her no answer.

"Ah, yes..." Tang Shaoyang turned toward the elf, "I am sorry. I don't think I will form a party with anyone."

Agnes' eyes widened in surprise. She expected the rejection, but she was surprised by what she heard next. It was common knowledge to form a party in the God of Trial. Not only was it more efficient, but also safer. By forming a party, they could hunt a higher-rank Calamity instead. While the point was shared equally, it was faster and more efficient than just hunting the lower-ranked Calamity.

Even Clement was surprised to hear that Tang Shaoyang did not want to form a party. But then he thought that might be the way Tang Shaoyang declined Agnes' invitation. The elf reached the same conclusion as the magus.

"You can just decline my invitation instead of saying that nonsense!" Agnes stood up from the seat and left with no more words. n/o/vel/b//in dot c//om

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow, but then he shrugged. He was telling the truth, but it seemed like he offended her. Not like he cared about that.

"Thank you, Tang."

That confused Tang Shaoyang even more. He turned toward Clement Salle, trying to understand why this man thanked him, "What?"

"Didn't you do that for me? You give her that stupid excuse because she ignored me, no?" Clement Salle smiled, "Unfortunately, I have formed a party and my party is full."

"What are you talking about? I will hunt by myself. I don't need a party."

Only then Clement Salle's expression froze. He looked into Tang Shaoyang's dark crimson eyes and realized it was a genuine remark. The man was being honest when he said that he would hunt by himself.

"Are you planning to hunt just the lower-rank calamity?"

"Maybe," Tang Shaoyang stood up, "I will return to my lodging for now. Thank you for the information." He waved his hand, leaving the dazed magus. There was no reason for him to share his plan in the Calamity Hunting. They were competitors, after all.

He explored the remaining area, the entertainment district. That was the area with the red light district. He stood at the entrance of the red light district which was quite desolated compared to the other areas. As he looked at this empty district, he felt the chill on his back. His instinct told him not to enter, and he always followed his instinct.

'You made a great decision.' Avyn's voice rang in his head. That explained the chill when he looked at the red light district, and he indeed made a great decision.

Since he was here, he decided to check on one of the taverns. Not the most crowded tavern, but a half-full tavern.

Tang Shaoyang walked to the bar, looking around until a masculine voice interrupted him, "What do you want to drink, Sir?" The barkeeper smiled at him. He was a human in his mid-forties with a light beard.

"I don't know, I am new here. What's your recommendation?"

"Maybe you should try our Scorching Beer. That's our specialty."

"Give me that. Maybe with a snack as well." Tang Shaoyang thought about Orien. That made him curious about the snacks from the other worlds.

"Right away, Sir." The barkeeper called someone to prepare the snack before preparing the thing called Scorching Beer.

When the barkeeper said Scorching Beer. He thought that was just a name, not actually scorching. The big mug was placed in front of him and steam came out from it. The beer was dark red, and he saw the ice. That confused him even more. Where did this hot steam come from?

When he grabbed the mug, he was surprised to find that the mug was cold despite the hot steam. This was quite suspicious, but he took a gulp. He understood why it was named Scorched Beer. It scorched his mouth, the pleasant scorch. It was similar to when he ate spicy food. The spicy burned his tongue, and yet he kept wanting to eat the food. It was the same with this Scorched Beer. It scorched his mouth and throat, but he wanted to keep drinking this beer.

Chapter 1474 Another Invitation

Tang Shaoyang did not realize when, but he emptied the big mug before his snack came, "This is good." He licked his lips as the lingered scorching sensation was still in his mouth, "Give me one more please."

The barkeeper smiled and nodded, refilling the big mug. At the same time, his snack arrived, "This is also a specialty from my world, Sir. It's Dried Flying Squid."

Tang Shaoyang looked at the plate, frowning his brow. The barkeeper said it was a flying squid, but it looked exactly the same as the squid from Earth. In fact, this one was smaller than the squid from Earth.

"What's wrong, Sir? You don't like flying squid?" The barkeeper asked.

"No. This reminded me of the squid from my world. They are exactly similar, but my squid doesn't fly. They live in the sea, and they are bigger."

"That makes me want to visit your world, Sir. I don't know what the squid's taste is from your world, but I am confident with my flying squid, Sir."

Tang Shaoyang took a gulp of the beer and threw the thumb-sized squid. The squid tasted sour and bitter, then it was followed by a saltiness afterward. That was a weird taste in his mouth, but for some reason, he understood why the barkeeper served him this dried flying squid. That was a good match with the Scorched Beer.

Even though it was in the afternoon, he drank a lot. There was nothing to do anyway. He had a lot of free time. It was two days and eight hours until the trial started.

"What should I do for the remaining two days?" Tang Shaoyang complained in a low voice after finishing his fourth mug of Scorched Beer, "Another Scorching Beer please, and another serving of dried flying squid."

"We have Arena, Sir. You can have a warm-up with your party there, or maybe win some money with the bets," The barkeeper recommended as he gave a bigger mug for Tang Shaoyang as well as another plate of dried flying squid.

Tang Shaoyang shook his head, "That arena concept is just stupid, and I don't need money. What's the point of money when you can't use it?"

The barkeeper understood the latter part of why Tang Shaoyang said he could not use the money. The rare items and scrolls in the shop could not be bought with money, but materials. That was the reason why those people opened their shop in this trial city.

"What about food, Sir. Are you interested in gourmet food from other worlds? I can recommend a place where you can eat food that might not exist in your world."

"That might be more interesting than fighting in the arena. Give me your recommendation."

The barkeeper recommended a restaurant. Not just the restaurant, but also the menu he should order. Tang Shaoyang stayed in the tavern for another hour, finishing more than twenty mugs of Scorched Beer and around nine plates of dried flying squid. Nôv(el)B\jnn

Tang Shaoyang left the tavern and went back to his lodging. He saved the restaurant for later. The first floor was less packed, only half of the tables were occupied. He thought of going to his room and getting some sleep to pass the time. But then he changed his mind with many empty tables. Going to the counter, he ordered the food.

He thought he would find many weird menus, but it was actually normal except for the ingredients. The restaurant in his lodging served a dragon steak, and his eyes could never leave this menu. He

actually never ate dragon meat before. His order was Dragon Steak, Dragon Tail Soup, and a bowl of rice.

After placing his order, he chose the table for three at the corner. He noticed that the people were staring at him. The first time he entered this building was when he left earlier, and just now when he returned. He did not mean to attract attention, but for some reason, these people kept observing him.

His name was famous on Earth, but this was not on Earth. These people should not know him. And yet, it seemed like there was something in him that attracted these people to him. He furrowed his brows and a woman's face appeared in his head. It was Ira's face, the admin helper. She escorted him to his room, and that might be unusual for an admin helper to do that. Maybe that was why the people in his building observed him. That was just a guess because he could not think of anything that might catch these people's attention.

Tang Shaoyang threw the thoughts as the steak aroma came closer. Sure enough, his food is coming. A waitress smiled at him, serving his food on the table. The sizzling noise kept ringing from the steak plate. The soup aroma that made him hungrier. He finally realized why the table was full. Even just by the aroma, he could tell the food was good.

The first thing he did was to cut his dragon steak into bite size. People would curse him with how he ate the steak, but he did not care. After cutting the steak into bite-size pieces, he put one on top of his rice. He scooped the first bite of steak and the rice.

He was nowhere near a gourmet, but he enjoyed good food. He could not describe the taste, but he liked it. That was enough for him. Then he tasted the soup. He immediately raised his hand, "Can I have another bowl of rice, please?"

Even though he had not finished the rice, he had an idea of how to eat the soup. It was to pour the soup into the rice, making it a rice dragon tail soup. He took the second bite of the steak and the rice. Just when he was about to have his third bite, someone interrupted him.

"Is this empty? May I sit here?" A cheerful voice interrupted him.

Tang Shaoyang looked up. A man with a white fancy robe smiling at him. Then he scanned the other tables. There were six empty tables, and yet this man came for his table. Before he could refuse, the man took a seat across from him.

"My name is Castor. I am sorry to interrupt your meal, but I am here to invite you to join my party."

Chapter 1475 Not so Friendly Encounter

Tang Shaoyang always tried his best to be polite, or not to be rude even to a stranger. Back in the past, he did not really care that much about it. But since he had become an emperor, he was aware that his actions might reflect the image of his empire as well as his people. Lately, he had become more aware of it and tried his best to be polite. But there was always a time when he would revert back to the old himself, his current situation was one example.

"Even though we can't use [Detection] inside the city, I can sense that you are strong. If you join us, I think it's possible to hunt even Rank 5 Calamity," Castor's voice became increasingly excited as he mentioned the potential of hunting Rank 5 Calamity.

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow a little bit. He did not realize that [Detection] can't be used inside the city. He did not use the skill because it might come off as rude. The [Detection]'s target could feel the skill. It might come off rude if he used the skill to the stranger. That was why he did not use the skill.

He shook his head, "I don't think we are compatible for a party. And I don't like my meal getting interrupted. Can you leave me?"

As he was about to take his third bite of his rice and steak. Castor said, "I don't mind waiting for you to finish your meal." He smiled. It was either he was shameless or he was just dense not to realize the refusal of the invitation.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh, "I am not interested in joining your party. Can you leave me alone, now!?" He made sure it was clear that he did not like Castor's presence during his meal.

Despite the rejection, Castor had his smile. The man waved his hand at Tang Shaoyang, "Ai, you haven't listened to my proposal. Just finish your meal and then we talk about my proposal. I will not interrupt your meal anymore."

If Tang Shaoyang was annoyed at the first interruption. He was now irritated. The man just could not accept a no. He put the spoon in his bowl and stood up, "Can you bring my meal to my room, please? I will pay extra."

He just walked two steps from his table before two men blocked him. They wore casual clothes and had a sharp look as their gazes locked on Tang Shaoyang, "Aren't you being rude here? Castor just wants to have an amicable conversation with you."

Tang Shaoyang released another long sigh, "Is my luck that bad, or what? Why am I always attracting this kind of people." He talked to himself in a low voice. But of course, the people in this building could hear him with their sharp hearing no matter how low his voice was.

"What happens here?" A familiar voice cut in.

Tang Shaoyang recognized the voice. It was the voice of the female elf he met in the arena earlier. She approached them and asked the two men who blocked his path. The two men described the situation to her.

'Did that girl Ira say anything about fighting inside the city?' He asked the spirits. He did not remember asking Ira about fighting inside the city, where there was punishment for it or maybe even getting disqualified.

'She said you can kill other participants. But she never mentioned if you can kill them inside the city or outside the city. But it will be safe to assume you can't fight inside the city. From experience, the system did not allow the players to fight in its territory.' Zara replied quickly.

Agnes was surprised to see Tang Shaoyang again. She furrowed her brow after listening to what happened. Then she looked at Castor behind Tang Shaoyang, waving his hand while smiling. She let out a sigh.

"Are they your party? It seems like you are the only one with common sense. Tell them that I don't want to join your party!"

Tang Shaoyang walked past to the right after saying that to Agnes. However, the man who tried to block him tried to give him a bump on his shoulder. Their shoulders bumped, and the man was pushed back to his surprise. The man took it as a humiliation that he was getting pushed back.

The man turned around and tried to pull Tang Shaoyang's shoulder. It was at that moment that Tang Shaoyang released his aura and killing intent. Their eyes met, and the man's eyes widened in shock at the overwhelming aura. Not just him, but the whole first floor could feel his aura. The man's face paled as at that moment he felt like death approaching him.

"That's enough, Sir. I will take care of the rest. I apologize for the inconvenience," A man with a big build, two meters tall, and a thick beard appeared next to Tang Shaoyang. The man had a white apron and a smile on his face, pulling down the hand on Tang Shaoyang's shoulder, "We will bring the food to your room, and your meal will be on us."

As the man on the apron appeared, the aura and the killing intent were neutralized pretty quickly. As if it was never there before. Right after that, the door slammed open, "What's happened here? I sense a killing intent!"

"I am sorry for the trouble, Madam Ira. It's just these gentlemen who have a slight argument that gets out of hand. You don't have to worry, I have taken care of it." The man in the apron smiled and turned toward the two men who blocked Tang Shaoyang, "Since you are the one who caused the trouble and tried to disturb my customer, you have to pay his bill. And four of you, you all are banned from my establishment. Please stay in your assigned lodging instead of causing trouble here."

The two men were about to argue back, but Castor interrupted them, "That's enough guys. We will pay his bill. Not just his bill, but all your customers. We are very sorry to cause trouble in your establishment, Sir. We will leave now."

Chapter 1476 Announcement & Change

Ira saw Tang Shaoyang was one of the people who got into trouble, "You just came a few hours ago, and you already caused trouble, you brat!" She raised her voice.

But then Tang Shaoyang glanced at her, and her heart skipped a beat when she met with his eyes. He gave her a glance before going upstairs, ignoring her.

"That's some scary glare..." She muttered in a low voice.

Castor left the building. Despite the conflict, he still left the building with a smile. As if the confrontation did not disturb him, at all. Meanwhile, the two men who confronted Tang Shaoyang left the building livid. They walked past Ira without saying anything.

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Tang Shaoyang returned to his room in a bad mood. He tried his best to hold back, but he ended up snapping back at the man. He just did not have the patience to face that kind of person.

Not long after he returned to his room, the waitress delivered his food. It was a new serving set. The dragon steak was still sizzling, the dragon tail soup was steaming, and two bowls of rice. Despite how tantalizing the food looked, he just did not have the appetite anymore. But of course, he still finished his food. He just could not enjoy it as much as before.

After finishing his food, he hopped on the bed. Checking the timer until the trial started which was two days and five hours. He was thinking about what he should do at that time. Between the available services in this city. The Arena was the most interesting one.

Tang Shaoyang looked out the window, noticing something weird. It was the light from outside. He had been here for around ten hours, and it was still the same outside. There was no sign that it would get dark anytime. He just realized it when he hopped on the bed and thought of sleeping. He thought it was still afternoon, but he quickly realized nothing had changed since he arrived.

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Hopping down from the bed, he walked to the window. He looked at the sky. The sky was bright with clouds, but he could not find the sun. He could not find the source of the light from the sky. It was as if the sun did not exist in this world.

He pulled the curtain to close the window and decided to sleep. The best way to quickly pass the time was sleeping. That was also the best way to relieve him from his bad mood from the earlier situation.

It took him some time to really fall asleep. He was not tired or sleepy, at all. It took him half an hour before he could really sleep. When he woke up, the first thing he did was check the timer again. It was one day and twenty-two hours until the trial.

He felt like these two days were very long, "Can't we just start the trial already?" There was nothing for him to do. There was no training ground for him to try his new skills, "Let's check the Alchemist shop. Maybe I will buy some recipes."

Tang Shaoyang just remembered about the alchemy recipes. He was fixated on the item, so he forgot to check the alchemy shop.

'Or maybe I can visit the shop in front of Cladeos' shop. Maybe I can get one Primordial or maybe Legend Rank item with my GC.'

His head was filled with what he should do to kill time until the trial. He went out of his room. As he arrived on the first floor, he received an interesting announcement.

[Announcement and Change In Trial]

1. The number of participants is doubled, up to 2000 participants
2. More time for Calamity Hunting, 45 days from 30 days.
3. We will hold a tournament for the participants in the Arena. Only the top three will be rewarded.
[Prize]

4. The point list for Calamity. [List]
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Tang Shaoyang read the announcement as he headed to the counter and ordered a light meal. The first thing he checked was the list for Calamity's point. He tapped the attachment and the list appeared.

Calamity Hunting Point:

Rank 1: 2 Points

Rank 2: 10 Points

Rank 3: 30 Points

Rank 4: 100 Points

Rank 5: 250 Points

Rank 6: 600 Points

Rank 7: 1500 Points

Rank 8: 5000 Points

Rank 9: 18000 Points

Unique Rank: 100000 points

Rank 1 Calamity was only worth 2 points even though it was the most sought-after material. The gap between Rank 1 and Rank 2 was big as well as Rank 3 Calamity. He could understand why the high-rank Calamity was worth hunting for even if they made a party.

From the list, there was one rank that Ira did not mention to him, Unique Rank. He felt like he would come first if he could kill one Unique Rank. That would guarantee him to the next stage. But of course, he was not that conceited to hunt The Unique Rank by himself.

Despite the big gap between each rank, he did not change his plan. He would start his hunt with Rank 1 Calamity and slowly went up in rank. With additional time, he felt like he could take it slow.

'I wonder what rank the massive Kraken we fought in Aqura was?' He remembered his first experience with his first Calamity. The massive Kraken that filled the sky.

'That thing is at least rank 7 Calamity, no? That thing is stronger than our dog.' Afi took his chance to tease Doombringer. However, this time, the dog did not bite back. As if Doombringer accepted the fact that the Kraken Calamity was stronger than him. That was a rare moment for Doombringer to stay silent and take the hit.

From all the announcements, this list was the most important in Tang Shaoyang's eyes. He was not interested in the other three. The additional participants did not really matter to him. The additional time was good because he had more time to hunt Calamity to exchange with the items.

As for the tournament, he did not show any interest in that. The tournament was stupid because he might reveal what he was capable of. He might become a target during the Calamity Hunting. That would be annoying, but he still checked the prize.

1st Prize: Divine Dragon Bloodline, A set of Legend Rank equipment, and 5 billion GC

2nd Prize: Dragon Bloodline, A set of Primordial Rank equipment, and 1 Billion GC.

3rd Prize: A set of Primordial Rank equipment, and 300 million GC.

'I think there's more benefit in participating than not, Your Majesty. It's Divine Dragon Bloodline. You can give it to one of your skeletons or maybe one of my undead!' Vandir was the first one to suggest participating in the tournament.

Chapter 1477 Suspicious Tournament

There was not much detail about the tournament. It just told the participants there was a tournament and the prize. Just as Vandir said, the prize was tempting for him not to participate. However, a tournament during a trial sounded suspicious.

Since it was announced by the system. The tournament should be legit, but that was just too weird. A competition in a competition. That was what it felt like.

"Your today's meal will be our tab," A rough voice interrupted his thought as a plate with two sandwiches was placed in front of him. Tang Shaoyang looked up. It was the same person who stopped him earlier.

The man that was over two meters smiled, grinning, revealing his white teeth, "This is a Dragon Steak Sandwich also a cup of special coffee from my world."

"Thank you," Tang Shaoyang did not refuse the free meal. The first thing he did was to see the hot coffee. There was a difference in color between the coffee he usually had and this one. He noticed the tinge of redness on the surface. He took the first sip and nodded his head. It was one of the best coffees he ever had.

"This is one of the best coffees I ever had," He was not stingy with the compliment. It was just that good, "Can I buy the coffee bean?"

"Of course, you can. It's a specialty of my world, but it's not that rare. Just come to me on the last day of the trial." The man in the apron smiled, "Enjoy your meal. There's no need to worry. No one will disturb your meal from now on."

"Of course, you can. It's a specialty of my world, but it's not that rare. Just come to me on the last day of the trial." The man in the apron smiled, "Enjoy your meal. There's no need to worry. No one will disturb your meal from now on."

He finished his meal with satisfaction. It was not on the same level as Elin's level, but it was not that far. The meal was satisfying and topped with good coffee. That was enough to forget his bad mood. He carefully contemplated joining the tournament.

"Nah. This tournament sounds fishy," He muttered in a low voice, shaking his head. The Divine Dragon Bloodline was tempting, but again, it was not guaranteed that he would get first place too. While he was not afraid to fight anyone here, he had to assume there were always people stronger than him.

'But thanks to the tournament. Now I know what I should do for the last two days.'

After a hearty breakfast, he went out to the alchemist district. As he thought, nothing changed. Outside it was still as bright as the afternoon with clouds. It was as if the sky was artificial. There was no sun, and he could not identify the source of the light.

Tang Shaoyang shook his head and headed to the alchemist district. He did not know anyone, and he did not have a recommendation for the alchemy shop. He just picked an alchemy shop with a medium number of visitors.

The alchemy shop did not put their recipe for sale, but they were willing to sell their recipe. However, just as he predicted, the Alchemy only sold their recipe for materials. Some of them required the body parts of Calamity, as well as rare herbs in this world. Buying the recipe might be harder than buying the blueprint for equipment.

He did not give up and visited another four shops. All of them had the same requirements. Some of them even asked for GC plus materials. Of course, he was not without a harvest. Some of the shops were willing to sell their recipe. He got an advanced healing potion, antidote, and regeneration. The most common recipe. n/ô/vel/b//jn dot c//om

After that, he went to the Arena. While he did not want to participate in the tournament, he came to watch. That was the only way to entertain himself, at least, for two days. Thankfully, he still had his Spirit Eyes ability, so he easily navigated through the city and found his way to the Arena district. Compared to yesterday, the Arena district was crowded with a stream of people.

The thing he noticed was that the city had more people than yesterday as well. That might be the reason why the number of participants was increased to two thousand. The most crowded arena was Arena Number One up to Arena Number Five.

Tang Shaoyang disliked the crowd and chose to come to the tenth Arena with the fewest visitors. At the entrance of the arena, he met a familiar face. It was Ira, the Admin Assistant he met on his first day in the city.

Ira also found Tang Shaoyang, and she looked excited for a moment. Her eyes brightened as a smile formed on her lips. She waved her hand at him, "You come. Are you going to participate in the tournament?"

Ira was not alone. She sat behind the table with her friend, or maybe co-worker.

"No." Tang Shaoyang shook his head, "I come to watch. Do I have to pay to watch?"

Ira clicked her tongue, "Aren't you interested in the prize? It's the Divine Dragon Bloodline," She tried to persuade Tang Shaoyang, "Unless you have one that is superior to the Divine Dragon..."

Tang Shaoyang ignored her and entered the arena without answering her. She still tried to find something about him. That was still suspicious even though they had cleared it before. Ira and her friend did not stop him.

The seats in the arena were half-full even though this was the arena with the least visitors from outside. There was a referee and four security members inside the arena. A match has already started.

He picked the highest and furthest seat where he could be alone. It looked like the tournament used the Arena's rule. It was a physical fight with no skill. Watching the match, reminded him of the past. Back before the game, he fought like the two inside the arena with minus a weapon and armor.

Even though there was no skill involved, it was still an intense fight. It was quite entertaining despite the lack of skill usage. After three matches, he noticed the participant saved the skill for a surprise, catching their opponent off guard. Using a skill without activating the skill.

He did not know the rules, but a strike with a killing intention was not prohibited. In that third match, one of the participants died, failing to react to the skill.

1478 The Last Phase

Tang Shaoyang did not ask Ira what would happen if he died in this trial. Was it the same with the Demi-God Trial where they would be resurrected and sent back to their world? Or it was death, death. He did not know that, but it would be silly to die in the tournament and fail the trial instead of dying from attempting the trial itself.

He furrowed his brow as he realized something. There was a sudden surge in the participants. At the same time, there was also a tournament. A very tempting tournament for the participants to join. It felt like the tournament organizer tried to reduce the number of the trial's participants.

'This is indeed suspicious.' Vampir who tried to persuade Tang Shaoyang to join the tournament also agreed that the tournament was suspicious.

The arena was getting more crowded, and he slowly understood the format of the tournament. It was similar to a gladiator fight. One has to achieve ten wins to proceed to the main arena. The football stadium-size arena was where the main tournament took place. It would be held a day later after a hundred participants with ten wins came out.

Tang Shaoyang's suspicion came true as more participants died. There was a silly fight, a mage-oriented class against someone with a close-combat class. He thought the latter would win, but the mage won with just a single spell. The mage blasted his opponent's head.

A loud cheer resounded when someone died. It caused the arena to shake a little bit from the cheer. Someone even laughed, happy that someone died. He understood as to why they were happy as that meant it was one less competitor. But that was just sickening that someone would laugh. He would kill people, but he would not laugh at the people he killed.

After the thirteenth match was over, Tang Shaoyang headed out. He thought of visiting the restaurant recommended by the barkeeper. The time-killing plan until the trial started was to try all kinds of foods in this city and watch the tournament. That was the plan for two days.

'Should I be worried about myself that I don't mind eating after watching the gory match?' That was what he thought on the way to the restaurant. Even after witnessing the flesh and blood in the arena, he still had the appetite to eat. Of course, he did not dwell on those thoughts too much.

The barkeeper recommended him to Calamity Restaurant. It was not just the name, but the restaurant indeed served Calamity's meat. They used Calamity as their ingredients, and that interested him.

Tang Shaoyang came out of the restaurant with a face of full regret. It was an interesting idea to taste the Calamity meat, but it was either the cook was an amateur who could not proceed with the ingredients properly, or maybe it was just not up to his taste.

He started with two menus and did not like them. But he trusted the barkeeper since it was recommended to him. He ended up ordering four more dishes, and that was why he was sure Calamity was not food, at least not for him.

After that, he visited the same tavern and ordered the same drink to wash the taste in his mouth. The barkeeper laughed at him when he said he did not like the recommendation.

That was how he spent his time, trying the new food, drinking at the same bar, buying new snacks, and returning to the arena. The two days in this city turned him into a gourmet person. He kept wanting to try a new food, and he had been asking for a lot of recommendations. He even asked Ira and her friend for a recommendation. It was until the last phase of the tournament.

He had not slept since the announcement of the tournament. No, he had not returned to his lodging ever since. Since there was no night and noon, he had been staying up and watching the tournament, the only thing that was interesting in the city.

There was a break for the last phase, and he went out to get his snack. Then he returned to his seat, but then he found four familiar faces next to his usual seat.

Agnes, Castor, and two men he still did not know until today. He thought of looking for a new seat, but he was just too lazy. He ended up sitting next to Agnes with three bags of snacks.

"We meet again, Mr. Tang Shaoyang," Castor recognized him and knew his name. It must be Agnes who told Castor his name.

"Hello," Tang Shaoyang greeted back unenthusiastically as he looked up at the giant screen above the arena. Four participants were remaining for the final battle. Those four people were the undefeated participants in the whole tournament.

Final Phase!

1. Eson Artus Figueroa
2. Galez Cesar Torres
3. Uruwakan
4. Alderoi Alder Acevedo

"You come alone? Where's your party, Mr. Tang?" Castor did not care about the lukewarm response and asked with a smile. n/vel/b/in dot c//om

It was hard not to be polite to someone who was polite. But it was a different case, and he did not know why. But for some reason, he felt repulsive to Castor. There was something that caused that, not because Castor was rude in their first meeting. It was just there was something that made him dislike Castor. He did not know why.

"I don't have a party." He replied shortly.

"What? How can? Is there no one inviting you to the party?" Castor asked with his pleasant voice, "How can no one invite a strong participant like you?"

"Don't know." Tang Shaoyang did not plan to form a party, but now that Castor reminded him. He indeed did not receive an invitation to a party anymore. Not that he wanted to be invited to a party, but now he knew why. He let out a chuckle and shook his head.

For the first time, he turned toward Castor with a smile, "Thank you for your help. It would be a bother for me to reject all those invitations if not for you."

Chapter 1479 A Disappointing Twist

Castor's smile froze for a moment, but he still maintained the smile, "I thought you were going to join the tournament, Mr. Tang Shaoyang. Are you perhaps out already?"

Tang Shaoyang waved his hand, "Not interested. What about you? Ah, I forgot. You lost." Castor managed to enter the top 32 and lost not long ago. He genuinely forgot, and did not mean to mock Castor for losing.

'You have to be careful around him. If he can prevent the other participants from inviting you to a party. This guy must have a deep background, and he may be one of your strongest rivals. Someone like him will hunt you instead of hunting the Calamity outside the city.' Zara The Goddess of Death warned Tang Shaoyang.

"Between those four, who do you think will win?" Agnes changed the topic. She was sitting between Castor and Tang Shaoyang. It would make her comfortable to hear both arguing next to her. She changed the topic that might interest the two as well as her interest.

"Don't know. I don't know them and with this restricted fight, it would be harder to judge who will win," Tang Shaoyang threw the dried flying squid into his mouth as he watched the last four participants enter the arena. The final was about to start.

His neighbor was discussing that Eson would win the match. Sharing their wisdom of how strong this Eson guy was. As if they knew Eson in person. And he remembered Castor lost to Eson.

'If Eson wins the whole tournament, he would not be ashamed to lose to this Eson dude?' That was what he thought. Those were just weird thoughts he had while listening to them. It was just that hard for him not to think of Castor negatively.

'What's wrong with me? I don't remember being this petty?'

"Eson Artus Figueroa is our fifth party member," Agnes suddenly said.

That explained why the four favored Eson. And the weird thing was that he did not ask, but Agnes told him, 'Is she trying to tell me that they got someone stronger than him for their party member?'

Tang Shaoyang shook his head and took out a bottle of Scorched Beer. It took him a while to convince the barkeeper for him to take out the drink and the snack. He took a gulp of the beer and put the bottle back into his inventory.

He noticed Agnes wanted to say something after he drank the beer. But he immediately pointed toward the arena, "The final starts. Please let me focus on watching."

The final format was quite interesting. The four final participants immediately fight in the arena. It was the last man standing format where the last person on the stage won first place. It was a unique format for a tournament for sure, and it allowed the remaining participants to work together.

He immediately noticed three participants were exchanging glances. Even though no words were spoken, he could tell they were talking with their eyes. Eson Artus Figueroa, Galez Cesar Torres, and Alderoi Alder Acevedo were the three people.

Tang Shaoyang understood why the three might want to work together to fight Uruwakan. Uruwakan was the famed participant who blasted his opponent's head. That was right, this Uruwakan was the same person whom he watched in the Tenth Arena.

'He might win the whole tournament if he could blast those three heads at the same time.'

Just as he expected, the three ganged up against Uruwakan. The first one to take charge was Galez Cesar Torres followed by Eson and Alderoi. They were moving toward Uruwakan.

Tang Shaoyang expected a fierce and prolonged battle if the three managed to take down the head popper. But the three seemed to underestimate the head popper as Uruwakan managed to pop Galez Cesar's head.

Galez was still six meters away from Uruwakan, and his head exploded. The headless body fell forward. The first one to get eliminated was Galez. The spectators thought Galez might have a way to protect himself from the head popper since he took the charge. But the result was disappointing.

The surprise was not over. A few seconds after Galez's headless body fell, a twist happened on the back line. Alderoi's spear pierced through Eson's chest. That was right, Alderoi stabbed Eson from behind.

"Woah!" The whole stadium was surprised by the betrayal.

"I surrender! I surrender!" Eson made the right decision. As soon as he fell on his knees, he immediately yelled surrender. He did not snap at Alderoi for the betrayal and that saved his life. It was clear that Alderoi tried to kill Eson if not for the referee's quick action. The referee appeared between Eson and Alderoi, stopping Alderoi.

A barrage of curses followed afterward. Eson could not accept the betrayal and cursed Alderoi. The spectators also echoed in agreement as the whole stadium booed Alderoi.

Even Tang Shaoyang was disappointed with how the final went. He expected to be entertained with an intense and close battle. But the final was ruined by the devious scheme from Alderoi. The four-way final turned into one Vs one final.

Castor and his friends were also furious with the tournament. They could not stop shouting and cursing next to him.

The final would be shorter than he expected. Tang Shaoyang checked the time, and it was still four hours until the trial started. Since it was one Vs one final, the fight would not last that long.
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'At most thirty minutes.' He predicted. That meant he was there three and a half hours before the trial. When he thought the fight would continue, the head popper ended the battle. That just put the nail into the coffin. Uruwakan made an enemy of the whole stadium with how the tournament ended.

"I surrender!"

That was right, Uruwakan the Head Popper surrendered instead of continuing the fight against Alderoi Alder Acevedo. He did not pop Alderoi's head to end the final, but by surrendering. Just like that, the final for the tournament was over in less than a minute with no fight.

Chapter 1480 Trouble Always Comes to Him

"They will die!" Agnes suddenly said. They in her mouth were of course Alderoi and Uruwakan. But he did not understand why she was so confident that both would die.

"Galez Cesar Torres is from a big faction, the Night Herald. House of Torres is one of the influential forces in the faction, and all participants from The Night Herald in this trial will come for those two!"

"There are a hundred members of the Night Herald in this trial. They participated in the trial to make sure Young Master Torres reached the last phase of the trial. But he dies in the first phase." Castor chimed in.

"Not just that. Eson will not stay still for the betrayal. He might use his people to hunt Alderoi and Uruwakan instead of hunting The Calamity. I advise you not to get close to those two, Mr. Tang Shaoyang."

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The spectators left before the award ceremony. No one wanted to see these sly bastards receive their prizes after a stupid final. It was clear that Uruwakan and Alderoi worked together. Just like that, the fully seated stadium became empty.

Tang Shaoyang did not leave the stadium since he had nowhere to go. He kept munching the dried flying squid. Agnes and Castor also did not leave. They stayed with him for some reason. But of course, they were here not to accompany him but to wait for their party member.

After receiving his reward, Eson stormed out of the award ceremony. He left the ceremony and went to the spectator's seats. He was coming toward their direction with no injury. Castor consoled Eson as the man arrived, even promising to help Eson get back to Uruwakan and Alderoi. Something like Castor would do for sure.

"Who is he?" Eson noticed Tang Shaoyang and asked. He asked because it looked like Tang Shaoyang was a friend to the four.

"Don't mind me. I am just a stranger they just met yesterday. I am just nobody," Tang Shaoyang answered for them. He did not want to get involved anymore with this party. However, lady luck was not on his side.

The first place and second place in the tournament were heading in their direction. He saw them from his Chaos Eyes, and he felt ominous that they came toward them. Those two were certainly not close to anyone here. Checking the surroundings, they were the only ones remaining in the stadium on this side.

His premonition came true when Uruwakan and Alderoi stopped in front of him. He hoped the two came to provoke Eson, but no. They came for him.

"You are Tang Shaoyang, right? I heard someone trying to prevent you from joining a party. What about forming a party with us?" Alderoi extended his hand toward Tang Shaoyang.

Tang Shaoyang stopped munching the dried squid. He put the bag into his inventory and let out a long sigh. Deep inside, he was laughing to himself and even his spirits were laughing at him. Especially Avyn, Doombringer, and Afi. He always got himself into trouble even though he did not do anything.

He could already feel the intense stare from the back. Castor and Eson must stare at him with those hateful stares. He was just glad that Alderoi was not smart enough instead of making it like he was in cahoot with them. That way he could avoid the trouble from these angry mobs.

Tang Shaoyang stood up without reaching Alderoi's hand, "Thank you for the invitation, but I am not interested in joining any party."

"You don't need to be afraid of these two clowns, Tang," Alderoi was not angry that Tang Shaoyang did not reach his hand, "They have their people, but I also have my people too."

"Thanks for your concern, but nothing is worrying me. I will be fine by myself. I don't need a party," Tang Shaoyang turned around and waved his hand, "If you guys want to fight, fight by yourself. Don't involve me please!" He raised his voice before leaving the stadium.

"It's unfortunate that we can't make a connection to The Dragon Realm through him. But it's worth a try," Alderoi muttered in a low voice. That was right, Alderoi mistook Tang Shaoyang for the Dragon Realm. Not just him, but everyone who tried to get close to Tang Shaoyang. The reason was simple, because of how strong Tang Shaoyang's dragon aura was. The aura was so pure that made them mistake him for someone from the Dragon Realm.

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As he got outside the stadium, he took out the bag of dried flying squid. He munched them as he went back to his lodging. He did not really know where to go. Thanks to Alderoi and Uruwakan's scheme, he still had four hours to waste before the trial started. With nowhere to go, he went back to his lodging.

To his surprise, his lodging was empty. He thought there would be people here, drinking while waiting for the trial. There was only one person on the counter, and that person was not a participant. She wore the Admin Assistant's uniform. From the back, he seemed to know her.

"You haven't returned for two days. You make me worry, Sir," The muscular cook who gave him a free sandwich called out. The person on the counter turned around, and she was indeed someone Tang Shaoyang knew, Ira.

"What are you doing here? Don't you have to prepare for the trial?" Ira sounded confused.

Tang Shaoyang took a seat next to Ira while munching the squid, "I have been ready since two days ago. Can you make coffee and put it in the bottle, Sir? I think I may need that for hunting."

"Aye. I will prepare the coffee for a week." The cook smiled and nodded before returning to the kitchen.

Ira rolled her eyes and thought, 'Who needs a coffee to hunt a Calamity?'

"That's not what I mean by getting ready. The trial will start soon, why don't you get ready at the gate? Don't you want to go first?"

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow, "What are you talking about? It's still four hours until the trial starts. That's not funny even for a joke."

Ira tapped her forehead lightly, "Ah, right. I forgot you are a bumpkin and loner. You have no friends, and you don't try to get information from the people who know about the trial as well. The trial will start half an hour after the tournament whether the tournament finishes early or later."

Tang Shaoyang frowned deeper and immediately checked the timer.

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He walked around in the city like a lost child early before deciding to go back to his lodging for coffee. Just as Ira said, it was twelve minutes until the trial started.